



CITY COUNCIL MINUTES – NOVEMBER 16, 2009
REGULAR MEETING
City Hall, 1001 Bridge Street, Vernonia, OR 97064

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance – Mayor Sally Harrison called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm

Council Present: Sally Harrison, Randy Parrow, Kevin Hudson, Brett Costley, and Cindy Ball

Staff Present: Bob Young, City Administrator; Frank Grace, Chief of Police; Bob Ruhl, Public Works Director; DeAnna Pearl, Prevention Coalition Director; and Joann Glass, Admin & Financial Services Manager/City Recorder

Press: Rebecca McGaugh, The Independent, LLC; Scott Laird, Vernonia's Voice

2. Additions or Corrections to the Agenda

Randy Parrow moved to accept the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded and passed.

Presentation:

A. Pinning Ceremony – Michael Kay

Chief Grace, after receiving Mike Kay's Sergeant Badge from him, asked Bob Young, City Administrator to give Mike Kay his Badge and "bars" promoting him to Captain Mike Kay Vernonia Police Department. Mike Kay asked his grandfather to pin his Captain Badge on him while his Mother stood by his side. Chief Grace expressed that this was a long time coming and that Mike has worked hard for this honor.

B. Anisa Mukhtorova, Foreign Exchange Student from the Country of Tajikistan

Anisa, wearing her native traditional dress, presented a power point showing a map of her country and explaining the form of government, showing the native dress, dance, instruments, and national foods. Tajikistan capital and largest City is Dushanbe, the population is over seven million people. Tajikistan has the highest Dam in the world.

3. Mayor Report

A. Thank You note from Virginia Kepner

Mayor Harrison read a letter from Virginia Kepner thanking the Mayor and Chief for all the improvements achieved within the City.

4. Councilor/Committee Reports and Minutes

A. Public Works Committee – Kevin Hudson

There has been no meeting since the last Council Meeting

B. VCLC Committee – Randy Parrow

Was not able to attend the meeting

C. Library Board – Randy Parrow

Randy had previously reported from the meeting at the last Council Meeting. Donna Webb let Council know that Nancy Burch, Librarian, along with help from Noni Anderson entered a contest with the Oregon State University, “Tell Your Rural Story” and won \$200 which will be given to Friends of the Library.

D. Cemetery Beautification Committee – Cindy Ball

There was no quorum at the Cemetery Beautification Committee Meeting.

Two members for the Committee have been advertised.

E. Parks Committee – Brett Costley

The Parks Committee has not met since the last council meeting.

Mayor Harrison asked about the possibility of obtaining a chipper to be used during spring and fall to have our own mulch. Brett will put this request on the Parks agenda for the next meeting.

F. Airport Committee Minutes October 7, 2009 – Sally Harrison

G. Economic Development Committee – Sally Harrison

The next meeting is Tuesday night, November 17, 2009

H. Emergency Committee – Cindy Ball

There will be an evening meeting with Chief Grace, Mike Kay, Bob Young and herself. She has not been able to attend the day meetings.

5. Topics from the Floor/Audience Participation

Persons addressing the council must state their name and address for the record. All remarks shall be directed to the entire City Council. The council reserves the right to delay any action requested until they are fully informed on the matter.

Brett Tschache shared with Council that the Vernonia Community Learning Center Computer Lab is operating and two groups have used them. One group was a class that Chief Grace organized and the other was the Chamber of Commerce.

Dennis Weller read a letter explaining the time line when a sewage backup and overflow occurred on October 28th, 2009 into his residence and the process and investigation that he had with City Employees, City Administrator and the Insurance Company. Mr. Weller demanded that the problem be repaired and maintained and the City needs to take care of this matter financially and the City takes it up with their insurance carrier. Mr. Weller asked to see in writing or action by Council two things: First, guarantee of the restoration and completion of the torn-up bathroom and bedroom and replacement of insulation under the home. Second, commitment by the City to remedy the situation of the sewer main to prevent this from being a reoccurring problem in their home.

6. Consent Agenda

A. City Council Minutes – November 2, 2009

B. Cash Disbursements – November 13, 2009

Kevin Hudson asked that a correction on Agenda Item No. 4 Public Works Committee be corrected to read “storm water issue in general” not lagoons.

Randy Parrow moved “to accept the Consent Agenda as amended.” The motion was seconded and passed.

7. Unfinished Business

A. Christmas Parade Route

Chief Grace spoke with Donna Webb and they have a plan to start at one end of town and end at City Hall.

Brett Costley moved “To accept the route that the Chief and Vernonia Pride agreed upon for the Christmas Parade December 5, 2009.” The motion was seconded and passed.

8. Business from Departments

A. Police – Chief Frank Grace

1. Updates.

Mayor Harrison let Chief Grace know that she was appreciative of the work he has done in keeping Council up to date on what is going on at the Police Department. “Kudos.”

Chief Grace will be bringing before Council more information regarding golf carts by the next month meeting.

B. Public Works – Bob Ruhl Public Works Director

Bob Ruhl will give a report every other meeting.

C. City Administrator – Bob Young

Bob Young thanked Chief Grace for the work he has been putting into the Emergency Operation Plan and hoping to get it all done before an emergency.

Bob Young along with Bob Ruhl explained there are complicated issues that they are working on along with Ben and the GIS as far as the wastewater treatment plant and the storm water coming in and how much I&I (Inflow and Infiltration) can be gotten rid of. We have one of the finest mapping systems for a city of our size because of the digital GIS system and the work Ben and KLS are doing. We need to add to and work on and have the basis for the system. Ben and Bob Ruhl have been working together and there are areas that need to be looked into before we move into the wastewater treatment so that they have better tools to work from.

Bob Rule explained that one of the issues that the city has is with planning and what we do with future problems that we have and how we know the I&I which is, the Inflow Infiltration system. Mapping and getting the elevations of where these problems are, like the one we heard about tonight, and what we have is part of the planning process. Part of our obligation in the wastewater project is to provide tools to plan and that the cities participation is to provide prints and GIS mapping and design. We have not quite met these standards and are not quite into the Second Phase. Part of what Ben is trying to do is setting up this plan for what our needs are and what our future needs will be. GIS becomes a paramount value and we need to look at how we are going to pay for this. What we need to look at is a proposal, in the near future, to authorize the City Administrator to over see this project with a not-to-exceed this project of over \$35,000.

1. Ben Fousek GIS update

Ben updated Council on what all has been happening with the GIS system. The electrical permit system has been set up to start tracking permits and expiration dates for each permit. He has been collecting flood information with Dan Brown on properties that have been affected by the flood so that FEMA can see the documentation on each property and that we are in compliance. He, Bob Ruhl and Kevin Hudson have been working together to come up with a plan on what they will need and what the GIS system can do for them as Bob Ruhl has mentioned.

Kevin Hudson commented that Ben and KLS has been doing a great job to where we are now. We need to establish a plan and move forward in an organized manner. The \$35,000 will be money well spent.

Public web page is www.klssurveying.com/vernonia. There is a link on the cities web page.

Randy Parrow asked where the funding was coming from and Bob Ruhl explained that it will come from different areas such as grants and SDC's. Jim Johnson explained that increasing or enhancing the GIS system as it relates to wastewater can be a part of the Wastewater Project.

Kevin Hudson asked that before they approve any money that they see more detail on what the final plan is and where the money is coming from and what we are going to get for that money.

Bob Young explained that this is the direction they are going and will be coming back with a plan on what they are considering.

2. Selecting a preferred Alternative for Wastewater Treatment for the City of Vernonia

Jim Johnson, Consultant, presented to Council for a Motion – Selecting a Preferred Alternative for Wastewater Treatment for the City of Vernonia. Daria Whiteman, Engineer from Brown and Caldwell, was on the phone for the presentation to answer any technical question. Jim explained that the issue before Council is to consider the recommendation of the Public Works Committee and select a preferred alternative for a wastewater treatment system for the City of Vernonia.

The Public Works Committee is recommending that Alternative 7B become the city's preferred alternative. Alternative 7B uses the existing lagoon treatment but does so through a fairly significant reduction in the size of the existing lagoons. The alternative uses lagoon treatment plus a natural wetlands system for treatment of the city's wastewater. This treatment would produce Class A Level water. Class A Level water can be used for a variety of purposes to include the irrigation of crops to be consumed by people. It can be discharged into Vernonia Lake with no adverse impact on the lake's ecosystem.

Kevin Hudson moved "That Alternative 7B become the preferred wastewater alternative for the City of Vernonia and that the regulatory agencies approve this alternative in writing prior to arranging for financing and construction." The motion was seconded and passed.

3. DeAnna Pearl – Vernonia Prevention Coalition Director

Bob Young asked DeAnna to give a report on the Vernonia Prevention Coalition.

DeAnna reported that in the last year the Vernonia Prevention Coalition has spent \$90,000 from the Grant and what has been given back is \$141,000 in matched volunteer dollars for dollars. There have been 658 contacts by twelve (12) sector partners within the coalition in one year. Vernonia Police Department has donated and been able to collect over 600 hours of volunteer hours that can be used for match for the Coalition. 1,236 volunteer hours have been donated and collected for the Coalition in this last year. On average there are ten functions a quarter which does not include three meetings a month, one is the executive committee, the regular committee and a Use Service Team is a third group. This group has been reestablished in this area, using services from around the county to be a blanket of support for families in this community. On average there have been 9000 contacts a quarter here in Vernonia through media

with an article or ad in the paper on what prevention is in this community, plus meetings, services, and programming. From January thru June of 2009 seventy (70) kids a week have been touched by a friendship group supported by the Coalition. Beginning in September that same group was started up again, seventy-five (75) kids a week have been touched with materials purchased through the Prevention Coalition. Another twenty (25) per week will be added that the Coalition is touching lives and changing in the community. Change is happening in the community.

DeAnna reminded Council that John Underwood, national speaker on the effects of alcohol on the performance of athletes would be at the Scout Cabin on November 19th and Friday, 20th at the School for students. There will be an evening meeting, "Being Part of the Solution." This is all free paid through the Prevention Coalition. ATD is for Alcohol, Tobacco and other Drugs.

9. Ordinances/Resolutions

A. Amending Resolution 4-09 – Airport Fees

Kevin moved to "Approve amending Resolution 4-09 Airport Fees"

The motion was seconded and passed.

10. Items from Mayor, Councilors, and City Administrator

Cindy Ball – Attended a Town Hall Meeting Sunday at the Scout Cabin that Senator Betsy Johnson, Representative Brad Witt and Representative Deborah Boone presented on Measure 66 & 67 that will be on the Ballot in January. Senator Johnson said this was the best attended meeting they had during this marathon of meetings the three have had. Will try and bring back someone to answer question and receive more information on these Measure.

Cindy asked a question based on the local paper reporting that we have too many police officers in town. She questioned if there is a law in place that specifies the number of officers per citizens and if she recalls correctly we are under that number a lot. She is not sure that the statement in the paper is correct that we are understaffed by the police department. Legally we are required more and it has been a couple of years that this has been talked about for her to remember what that ratio is.

Cindy mentioned that the Town Hall Meeting was announced to the community by using e-mail and getting the word out by many people. It was a joint effort by many.

Kevin Hudson asked that at the next meeting we have an update on the water rate study, emergency plan, and generators for the City from the state surplus program and the sizing on what we need. Bob Ruhl let Kevin know that he has had someone out to evaluate the need and has the size for those needs. He is also working with the county.

Randy Parrow did some calculations on the expected population for Vernonia and if we really would gain 750 people over the next 20 years. This was in response to the preferred wastewater treatment for the City and how long it would be suitable for use.

Sally Harrison asked to have at the December 7 meeting a dedication to place a portrait of Judge Rod McLean in the Council Chambers for services proved to this community.

11. Recess to Executive Session as per ORS 192.660 (2) (h)

"A member of the news media or designee may not disclose any information from executive session, may not tape record, digitally record, and/or video record to decrease the likelihood that information discussed in the executive session will be inadvertently disclosed."

12. Return to Open Session for Final Action

Council returned to Open Session for Final Action from Executive Session

Kevin Hudson moved “To agree to pay to Dennis Weller \$2300 per the estimates provided besides the \$1,000 that has already been paid by the Insurance with an agreement written up by the City Attorney which is mutually acceptable that the city will not be held liable in the future.” The motion was seconded and passed.

Adjournment: The Vernonia City Council meeting for November 16, 2009 adjourned at 9:50 pm.

Signed this _____ day of _____ 2009

Sally Harrison, Mayor

Attest: _____
Joann M Glass, City Recorder

The November 16, 2009 City Council Minutes were approved by the City Council on December 7, 2009